



SELLS



Society for Effective Lessons Learned Sharing

April 2002
The SELLS Quarterly
Newsletter for
Debut Issue

Co-Chair Corner



We are pleased to introduce the first issue of the SELLS newsletter. We hope that you find the information

here useful and become regular users and contributors to the newsletter. We hope you will use this newsletter as a resource to introduce or reinforce to your employees to the importance of lessons learned as part of feedback and improvement. To make this newsletter the best it can be – we need to hear from you.

In the future, look to this corner for messages from Dawn Starrett Rich Schassburger and– the SELLS Co-Chairs. If you have any ideas to add to this newsletter, contact Rich via e-mail at

Richard.Schassburger@rf.doe.gov

or Dawn via e-mail at starred@nv.doe.gov

New happenings at your site?
Submit it for the Country Round-Up section of our next issue.

Feature Story – Submitted by
Ramon Martínez , Bechtel
Nevada Los Alamos Operations

The Power of a “Plastic Bag”

For some, it is hard to believe that a plastic bag over a vent valve is stronger than a steel tank under vacuum conditions that are created when drawing product out of the tank.

The following three photos depict a tank collapse that resulted from air being drawn out of a tank when the vent valve was covered by a plastic bag. Covering the vent valve during tank painting is fairly standard practice; leaving it covered when drawing air out of the tank is a non-standard practice. This results in total destruction of the tank. It is generally not cost effective to repair tanks with this extent of damage.

The first photo shows the bottom lifting off the foundation during the collapse. The second photo shows the top of the collapsed tank where the vent is covered with some plastic. The third photo shows the full extent of damage. The scaffolding around the tank is for painting.

This is a mistake that is preventable by adherence to

procedures and good communications between operations and maintenance.



Do you have photos of a lessons learned to share? Submit to starred@nv.doe.gov

Recurring Themes

Modifications made in the field did not conform to equipment specifications.

(Pantex & Bechtel Nevada)

Upcoming Events

May 14-16, 2002
Government and Industry
Data Exchange (GIDEP) Workshop & Information Sharing Conference
Shelter Point Hotel & Marina
San Diego, CA

Registration and additional information can be found on the web at
<http://www.gidep.org>

New Resources

The new NNSA Lessons Learned Portal is available on the web at
<http://lessons-learned.net>

The NNSA Lessons Learned Portal is a customer specified portfolio, e-mail push web-based lessons learned system designed to facilitate the sharing of lessons learned specific to your needs. The portfolio allows users to set up a personal profile that specifies the lessons learned topics that most interest them so extraneous information is filtered out. Sources for the system come from GIDEP, DOE Headquarters and field elements, and DOE contractors and subcontractors.

Tips to Improve

Want to write better lessons learned alerts?

Refer to the Writing Tips Fact Sheet available at
<http://tis.eh.doe.gov/ll/sells/faqs/writips.pdf>

Still need some help?
Contact one of the SELLS volunteer mentors:

John Bickford
John_C_Bickford@rl.gov
(509) 373-7664

Bruce Breslau
bruce.breslau@eh.doe.gov
phone: (301) 903-7343

Meredith Brown
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(505) 667-0604

Jeanne Wightman
jwightma_it@nv.doe.gov
(702) 295-1878

SELLS Member Profile

Meredith Brown is a veteran contributor to



SELLS. She works at Los Alamos to improve sharing of operating experience information in many ways. She currently serves on the SELLS Executive Committee and as a volunteer

mentor. Meredith has been a past SELLS co-chair. She is one of the gatekeepers for the alert list server. You may recognize her name for a lot of reasons. Thanks Meredith!

Liaison Established with EFCOG Feedback & Improvement Subgroup

At their 2001 fall meeting, the EFCOG Feedback and Improvement (F&I) Subgroup voted to pursue the establishment of an official working relationship with SELLS since there is commonality in items that are of interest to both groups. Subsequently, the SELLS Executive Committee and the F&I Subgroup have agreed to establish a SELLS liaison member to the F&I Subgroup. Dawn Starrett will serve in this capacity. We look forward to a growing working relationship between the groups. More information about the EFCOG F&I Subgroup can be found on the web at:

<http://www.efcog.org/wg/ismwg/ism/acapsg/acapsg.htm>

Want to share a lessons learned? Contact your organization's Lessons Learned Point of Contact.